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Formulation of national policies in the context of existing regional trade agreements

Trade development policies and the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, and formulation of national policies in the context of existing regional trade agreements

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

Executive summary

By end July 2015, the Member States of the United Nations are to agree on the contents – sustainable development goals and targets – of the post-2015 development agenda and the means of implementation required to deliver on the agenda. What would it entail for a national Government to implement the post-2015 development agenda, that is to say, to deliver the outcomes that would transform its society, economy and environment to become more sustainable within the time frame 2015–2030? When doing so, how can a national Government make the best use of trade and trade policy? And what types of regional cooperation and global partnership would reinforce national efforts to achieve the proposed sustainable development goals? These are the key issues addressed in this note in the hope of stimulating discussion under agenda items 4 and 5 of the seventh session of the Trade and Development Commission.

This note discusses the importance of, and challenges in, designing and implementing at the national level an integrated policy mix, of which trade policy is a key component. It also looks at the impacts regional trade agreements may have on the formulation of national development policy and the need for a global partnership that would support and reinforce national efforts and combine them towards achieving "the future we want" at the planetary level. Sections II, III and IV suggest some issues the Commission may wish to discuss with regard to national actions that can be taken at the national, regional and global levels.

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Introduction

1. Under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Member States entered into intergovernmental negotiations in January 2015 with a view to agreeing on the contents of the post-2015 development agenda. The agenda is expected to be transformative, meaning that it should transform economies, societies and ways of tackling climate change with a view to making "patterns of growth more inclusive, sustained and sustainable".[1] The outcome of the negotiations, expected by end July 2015, should be a set of sustainable development goals and targets, and the means of implementation and global partnership necessary for achieving them. The basis of the ongoing negotiations on sustainable development goals and targets is a set of 17 goals and 169 targets proposed by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, a process launched in January 2013 as a follow-up to the conclusion of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.[2] The post-2015 development agenda will be adopted at the United Nations summit to be held on 25–27 September 2015.[3]

2. Also in January 2015, a separate but related intergovernmental process was launched in preparation for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held on 13–16 July 2015 in Addis Ababa. During this process, Member States discuss the outcome of the Conference at three drafting sessions: in January, April and June 2015. The outcome should present a set of international commitments to mobilize public and private financial resources for the implementation of the proposed post-2015 sustainable development goals and revitalize global partnerships that enable "coherent and mutually supporting world trade, monetary and financial systems, better processes to globally develop and share appropriate technologies, capacity building, a balanced approach to sovereign debt distress and strengthened global economic governance".[4] That is, the outcome of the Conference should provide tangible solutions on how to "strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development" (Goal 17).

3. In this context, and to stimulate discussion at the seventh session of the Trade and Development Commission under agenda item 4 (Trade development policy and the post-2015 sustainable development agenda) and item 5 (Formulation of national policies in the context of existing regional trade agreements), this note looks into the challenges that national Governments and the international community will face in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, that is to say, in the process of delivering necessary policy outcomes to achieve sustainable development, with a particular focus on how to make the best use of trade in delivering on the agenda.

I. Using trade to deliver on the post-2015 development agenda

4. In practice, what would it entail for the Government to use trade to deliver on the transformative agenda? Using the plan-do-check-adjust/act (PDCA) method for process

[1] A/69/500.

[2] Some of the sustainable development goals and targets presented in the report of the Open Working Group (A/68/970) may be considered goal-specific means of implementation.

[3] A/69/L.46 and A/69/L.43.

[4] United Nations, 2015. Preparatory process for the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development: Elements, 21 January, available at http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/FfD_Elements-paper_drafting-session.pdf, accessed 3 March 2015.

management, delivering on the post-2015 development agenda would require the Government to do the following:

(a) Plan: integrate the sustainable development goals and targets for the time frame 2015–2030 into the country's "national planning, policy, budgets, law and institutions";[5]

(b) Do: implement the policy measures;

(c) Check: monitor and review the interim outcome of the policy mix against the sustainable development goals through processes built on "broad, multi-stakeholder participation, including national and local governments, civil society, science, academia and businesses";[6]

(d) Adjust/act: if necessary, modify the policy mix to pursue the process towards achieving the sustainable development goals.

5. Under the above framework, how can a Government use trade, that is, commercial activities of international exchanges of goods and services, to deliver the post-2015 development agenda? The power of trade that is expected in a country's development policy is first and foremost its capacity to induce income growth at a more rapid pace than would have been achieved under autarky. Producers and businesses export when their goods or services obtain higher prices in foreign markets than in the domestic market or expand their markets, for example; they import when the goods and services obtained from foreign markets offer a greater value for money in quantity and/or quality than those that are domestically available.

6. The Government can use trade directly by increasing the income gains from trade – income from participating in trade-related economic activities, which include services. However, income growth alone will not achieve development, which should be sustained improvement of socioeconomic conditions that are inclusive, equitable and environmentally sound, and that achieve structural transformation with a higher productive capacity. From the perspective of poverty alleviation, for instance, if the aggregate income growth of 1 per cent does not reduce the number of people in absolute poverty by several percentage points, it does not contribute to making society more inclusive and equitable. The Government aims to achieve a per capita increase in the gains from trade in two ways: first, by enhancing the gains from trade for those currently taking part in trade; second, by expanding the segments of the population that can participate equitably in trade-related economic activities.

7. Furthermore, by modifying income-earning opportunities or the quantity of goods and services available on the domestic market, trade can have transformational impacts on various aspects of development such as employment, food security, access to basic services, inequality across and within countries, and structural transformation. The force of such impacts can to a large extent be influenced by the choice of government policies. As discussed extensively at the sixth session of the Commission in 2014, it is necessary to establish trade policies and complementary policies in other areas, such as the environment, competition, services regulation and gender equality, in order to generate positive linkages between trade and sustainable development.[7]

8. Importantly, the magnitude of the income gains from trade depends to a large extent on regional and international financial, trading and other economic conditions. In addition,

[5] A/69/700.
[6] Ibid.
[7] TD/B/C.I/33.

the effectiveness of national policy instruments in linking trade to development may require coordinated actions by different Governments at the regional level – regional trade agreements, for example – as well as at the global level.

9. The following sections discuss actions that the Government would need to take at the national, regional and global levels as they deliver on the post-2015 development agenda.

II. At the national level: Designing an effective policy mix

10. The conceptual foundation of the post-2015 development agenda lies in the impending expiry of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development titled "The future we want" (A/RES/66/288), which states: "We therefore acknowledge the need to further mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions".

11. To achieve sustainable development in all three dimensions, a Government needs an integrated approach that would combine instruments for different policy objectives – social, economic or environmental – in such a way as to create synergies among them and minimize possible negative spillover effects upon each other. The meaning of an integrated approach is clearly described in the synthesis report of the Secretary-General on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda:[8]

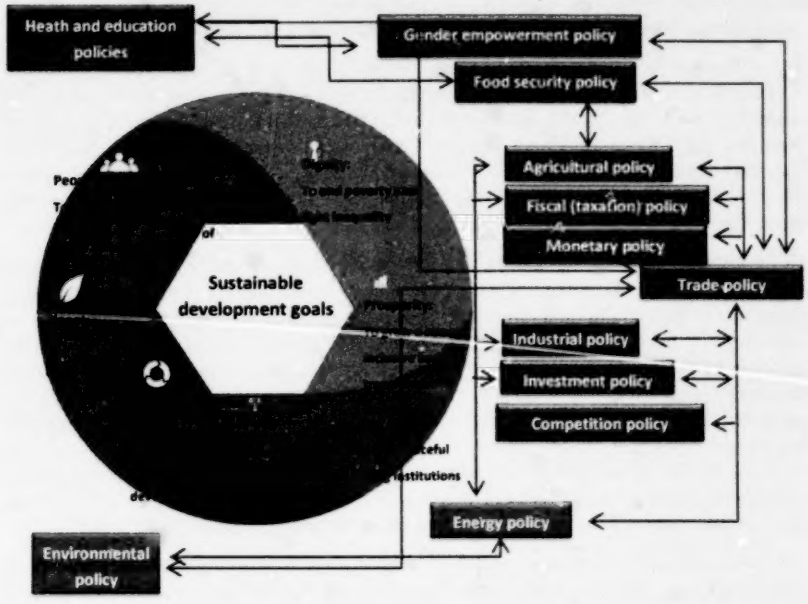
> Sustainable development must be an integrated agenda for economic, environmental and social solutions. Its strength lies in the interweaving of its dimensions. This integration provides the basis for economic models that benefit people and the environment; for environmental solutions that contribute to progress; for social approaches that add to economic dynamism and allow for the preservation and sustainable use of the environmental common; and for reinforcing human rights, equality and sustainability. Responding to all goals as a cohesive and integrated whole will be critical to ensuring the transformations needed at scale.

12. To achieve such an integrated approach, it is essential to design a national holistic policy mix for sustainable development. The most common ingredients would include instruments to achieve macroeconomic stability, income redistribution, trade promotion, environmental protection and conservation, industrial policy and incentives to invest, structural transformation, fair and competitive markets, technology and innovation, food security, health care, education, gender equity and women's empowerment. The exact choice of instruments in a country's policy mix would vary across countries, depending on country-specific needs, conditions and circumstances.

13. The figure below provides an illustrative list of ingredients, mapped against the "six essential elements for delivering on the sustainable development goals" proposed in the aforementioned synthesis report of the Secretary-General.

[8] A/69/700.

An illustrative policy mix mapped against six essentials elements for delivering on the sustainable development goals



14. The biggest challenge in designing such a policy mix is, of course, the extreme difficulty of assessing the magnitude of dynamic interactions of the outcomes of different policies.

15. Take trade policy as an example. It is clear that its ultimate objective is to achieve economic development through welfare improvement. The Government determines the level and structure of its customs tariffs, according to a country's strategic needs, such as sector-specific protection, fiscal revenue or structural transformation, by expanding the country's production frontier to achieve economic development. Now the immediate outcome of such a trade policy instrument, in this case the level of tariffs, is a change in the quantity of traded goods that is produced by modifying their domestic prices. For example, a significant level of tariffs levied on a staple crop in support of local producers could exacerbate food insecurity among people in low-income segments. Conversely, across-the-board tariff elimination may reduce the number of jobs available to marginalized segments of the population, including women, who are in general less apt to shift from one productive sector to another. There are countless incidences of trade policy influencing social and environmental sustainability.[9]

[9] For example, UNCTAD research on trade and gender points to the multifaceted aspects of the interplay between trade and gender, whereby a greater participation in trade (regional or global) can create opportunities for women's empowerment and well-being; at the same time, it can magnify existing gender-based inequalities. Detailed findings from various cases studies are available at http://unctad.org/en/Pages/DITC/Gender-and-Trade/Trade,-Gender-and-Development.aspx, accessed 3 March 2015.

16. The above is about the unintentional influence of a trade policy instrument on a country's society and the ecosystem. There are also cases where a trade instrument is used intentionally to generate social and environmental consequences. For instance, some developing country Governments actively use their comparative advantage in providing environmental goods and services[10] to international markets specifically to generate sustainable income and employment for marginalized groups of the population.[11]

17. Because the exact contents of a national policy mix for sustainable development will necessarily be country-specific, a discussion on the prescriptive ingredients for a policy mix is not possible at this stage. Instead, an examination is possible of what may be a common issue that the Government of any country – developed or developing – would face in the stages of delivering on the post-2015 development agenda (that is to say, the sustainable development goals), for example, key requirements at different stages of the above-mentioned PDCA cycle.

18. First, at the planning and the implementation stages (P and D), each Government would need a solid assessment of where the country stands with regard to the sustainable development goals. The best source for this assessment is each country's progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, which will conclude in 2015. With the outcome of the Goals as the starting point, policy continuity will be ensured in many developing countries, including least developed countries, which have successfully integrated the Goals into their national policies and institutional frameworks. Another key requirement, which is closely linked to the above, is for different ministries and other executive bodies in the Government to share a holistic vision of the country's sustainable development, and for them to have mechanisms that would enable them to coordinate actions when separately implementing policy instruments in a common policy mix.

19. Second, at the monitoring and reviewing stage (C), a key requirement particularly relevant to developing countries is data literacy,[12] that is, national statistical capacities in the collection of data and management of reliable and timely data sets at detailed and disaggregated levels, including disaggregation of data by sex. In response to a set of policy recommendations from the Independent Expert Advisory Group on Data Revolution for Sustainable Development, the United Nations system has started internal deliberations on how different United Nations agencies can support national efforts to improve data and statistical capacity.[13] Another crucial requirement is analytical skills, including skills to make the best use of available data and statistics.

20. Third, the adjusting/acting stage (A) is probably most crucial in order to ensure the continuity of the process of delivering on the post-2015 development agenda. The strength of the PDCA method is that it is designed for repeated implementation to slowly but surely approach the goal, taking advantage of the findings and new knowledge acquired through the process. Sustainable development cannot be achieved overnight, and the post-2015 development agenda is not supposed to suggest one-off actions. It is expected to be a transformative agenda such that, in the period 2015–2030, countries will gradually and

[10] Possessing environment-enhancing characteristics. Examples of environmental goods and services are renewable energy products, biodiversity-based products and organic agricultural products.

[11] For more information, see http://unctad.org/en/Pages/DITC/Trade-and-Environment/BioTrade.aspx, accessed 3 March 2015.

[12] A/69/700.

[13] Independent Expert Advisory Group on Data Revolution for Sustainable Development, 2014, *A World That Counts: Mobilizing the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development*, available at http://www.undatarevolution.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/A-World-That-Counts2.pdf, accessed 3 March 2015.

collectively change the course of their socioeconomic development patterns towards more sustainable and inclusive ones.

Issues for discussion

21. Against the above background, possible questions concerning government actions at the national level would include the following:

(a) How do Governments achieve better coordination and coherence between policies and executive actions from different national ministries (for example, environment, finance or trade) under one holistic development objective?

(b) What projects do Governments have in place to evaluate and monitor how trade contributes to inclusive development or to reduce inequalities, including those based on gender?

(c) How do Governments create and manage a participatory and inclusive policymaking process, particularly with a view to trade policymaking, in view of understanding and reflecting the socioeconomic and environmental concerns of different stakeholders?

(d) What types of policy mix are available to achieve positive interaction between trade and socioeconomic transformation, for example, increasing food security, empowering a marginalized group, narrowing the gender gap, decarbonizing the economy and raising educational levels? What factors (social, economic and/or environmental) can challenge the effectiveness of such a policy mix?

(e) Take the example of a carbon tax: When using a trade instrument as an incentive policy to address social and/or environmental objectives, how to measure the cost and the benefit of such a policy action, based on which factors and in what time frame? How to ensure that such policies are not used arbitrarily to disguise protectionism?

(f) How can Governments make best use of trade-related data and statistics, which are generally more widely available and reliable than other socioeconomic data in most countries, to assess the interim outcome of a policy mix, while improving data literacy?

III. At the regional level: Formulation of national policies in the context of existing regional trade agreements

22. Certain national actions aiming at sustainable development, for example the sustainable use of natural resources, such as water, forest or fish, require intergovernmental cooperation at the regional and subregional levels. Later in the implementation stages, regional cooperation will help countries monitor and review national progress in delivering on the post-2015 development agenda through a regional peer review. Such a mechanism can enable neighbouring countries to identify regional trends, obstacles, commonalities, best practices and lessons learned, and to identify mutual support and solutions for commonly faced obstacles.

23. While regional cooperation is in general voluntary, one type of economic cooperation – the regional trade agreement – is a legally enforceable contract concluded between countries belonging to the same geographical region, or by a group of countries on an interregional basis, as defined in discussions at the World Trade Organization (WTO). Therefore, certain obligations under such an agreement may limit a country's choice of national policy instruments in the interest of acquiring access to a wider market and

resource base. This section discusses to what extent membership in a regional trade agreement influences a country's capacity to design and implement policies under a broad objective: to achieve the sustainable development goals.

Trends in regional trade agreements

24. Regional trade agreements have proliferated rapidly over the past 20 years. By mid-2014, 585 regional trade agreements had been registered with WTO, 379 of which are currently in force. The possible causes of their proliferation have been discussed widely in other forums. The focus of this note is on the issue coverage of existing regional trade agreements and how they may affect a country's flexibility in designing its sustainable development and poverty reduction strategy.

25. The underlying objective of such an agreement is to achieve economic gains from having a wider market for a country's goods and services and a bigger or better resource base, mainly by granting preferential market access to each other.[14] In addition, membership of a regional trade agreement can substantially improve a country's attractiveness to foreign direct investments because of market expansion and to some extent, because of perceived predictability in its trade policy. Increased interaction among firms within a regional trade agreement can also facilitate the transfer of operational and technological know-how among businesses in the member countries. Many recent regional trade agreements go far beyond granting tariff preferences to each party and seek economic integration at levels deeper than those under the Uruguay Round agreements.[15] Further, the focus of twenty-first century regional trade agreements, especially mega-regional trade agreements, has shifted to behind-the-border regulatory measures with a view to improving transparency and compatibility among the members in areas such as investment, competition, capital movement, intellectual property rights and government procurement, all of which are essential factors to facilitate the conduct of global production networks, or global value chains.[16]

26. These new strains of regional trade agreements with a regulatory focus are tailored largely to countries that already have sophisticated institutions. As for countries that are currently developing such institutional frameworks, membership to such an agreement can be practical, as it provides a set menu of rules and regulations that are compatible with other parties to the agreement. However, compatibility with trading partners can only be of secondary importance when designing rules and regulations: the primary objective is to normalize the domestic economic environment in such a way that it enhances economic activities, which in turn contributes to a country's development.

27. Furthermore, there are cases where certain regional trade agreements restrict a country's so-called policy space that is ensured under WTO agreements. In the area of public health, for instance, the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) provides developing countries with certain flexibilities to deviate

[14] A recent empirical study conducted by UNCTAD suggests that regional trade agreements, especially between developing countries, can generate positive effects on the extensive margin of trade, that is to say, export diversification in trade sectors and in partners. See A Nicita and V Rollo, 2013, *Tariff Preferences as a Determinant for Exports from Sub-Saharan Africa*, Policy Issues in International Trade and Commodities Study Series No. 60 (New York and Geneva, United Nations publication).

[15] Regarding services, such commitments include not allowing countries to decrease the level of commitment through standstill requirements and the automatic incorporation of future liberalization through the ratchet clause.

[16] TD/B/C.I/MEM.5/5.

when necessary from their TRIPS commitments in order to meet national public health needs, such as compulsory licensing.[17] But some regional trade agreements contain TRIPS-plus provisions that extend the patent protection period enjoyed by patent holders of pharmaceutical products beyond what is agreed under the TRIPS Agreement. This means a longer period of no competition facing patent holders, therefore higher drug prices to be paid by consumers and Governments.[18]

28. Furthermore, in the area of investment, a modern regional trade agreement may elicit another type of regulatory reaction from developing countries. In anticipation of any investor–State dispute or legal challenges under a new regional trade agreement, a developing country member may resort to "regulatory chill", meaning that it will not draw up any regulatory policies on foreign direct investment, capital movement or intellectual property rights – which would have carried a significant weight in the country's policy mix for sustainable development. Some North–South regional trade agreements contain a clause that suggests technical assistance to be provided by developed country members to developing country members in areas such as compliance with higher standards.[19] Often, however, such clauses are not legally binding.

29. The general traits of recent regional trade agreements as described above also pose a question about the fundamental inclusiveness of such agreements. In other words, the interests of small and economically modest developing countries are not covered by new regional trade agreements, which may be perceived to reflect the regional and/or global business interests of multinational corporations.

30. Another dimension of inclusiveness with regard to regional trade agreements is a domestic one. For Governments to evaluate ex ante the costs and benefits of such agreements, it is necessary to have a well-functioning inter-ministerial consultation mechanism to evaluate the costs and benefits, and an open and participatory consultation mechanism for the Government, civil society, academia, and large and small businesses and different stakeholders in the society. Learning from successful examples of such consultation mechanisms would be of great value to many countries.[20]

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[17] Compulsory licensing means that Governments can allow firms to produce patented products without the consent of the patent holders under certain conditions. According to the Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health (para. 4) adopted at the 2001 WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha, "... the TRIPS Agreement does not and should not prevent members from taking measures to protect public health" and that the Agreement "can and should be interpreted and implemented in a manner supportive of WTO members' right to protect public health and, in particular, to promote access to medicines for all", available at http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/min01_e/mindecl_trips_e.htm, accessed 4 March 2015.

[18] L Forman, 2013, The Intergovernmental Working Group on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property, in United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner, *Realizing the Right to Development: Essays in Commemoration of 25 Years of the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development* (New York and Geneva, United Nations publication, Sales No. E.12.XIV.1), available at http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Development/RTDBook/PartIIIChapter22.pdf, accessed 4 March 2015.

[19] For example, standards concerning products, labour and the environment.

[20] A number of countries routinely conduct ex-ante assessment of their trade agreements at times through participatory consultative processes. For some country cases on consultation in trade policy process, see M Halle and R Wolfe, eds, 2007, *Process Matters: Sustainable Development and Domestic Trade Transparency*, Winnipeg, Canada, International Institute for Sustainable Development.

Issues for discussion

31. Based on the above, possible issues for discussion on the formulation of national policies in the context of regional trade agreements would include the following:

(a) How can a regional trade agreement, whose principal aim is to promote intraregional trade, address sustainable development concerns at the national and regional levels? What successful cases and best practices can be highlighted?

(b) In addition to the regional trade agreement-versus-TRIPS examples, are there cases where certain obligations of regional trade agreements conflict with the inclusive and sustainable development of developing country members? If so, what actions can be taken to redress such conflicts?

(c) What action can be taken when regional trade agreements lead to economic discrimination of certain developing countries that have not entered into regional trade agreements with major economies? For example, what can be done when they are removed from the radar of major international businesses?

(d) Trade analysis suggests that South–South regional trade agreements can provide member countries with fertile ground for export diversification. What actions would make such agreements further enhance structural transformation in a sustainable manner?

(e) Are there any model cases of regional and subregional cooperation or cases where a supportive environment for trade-led growth and sustainable and inclusive development is jointly generated?

IV. At the global level: Revitalizing the global partnership

32. Achieving sustainable development requires a "revitalized global partnership" which "must be effective in mobilizing the means and in creating the environment to implement … the ambitious new agenda". Such a partnership should provide an international economic environment supportive to the national implementation of the post-2015 development agenda "through aid and trade, regulation, taxation and investment".[21]

33. In the intergovernmental negotiations on the sustainable development goals – the key element of the post-2015 development agenda – countries are discussing targets under Goal 17 for a global partnership in different areas that include finance, trade, technology, capacity-building (in developing countries) and systemic issues.[22] However, while it is possible to quantify targets and provide measurable indicators for most sustainable development goals, the metrics for evaluating partnerships, such as the targets on partnership for trade, are not obvious (see box).

34. For example, target 17.10 calls for a universal and equitable multilateral trading system. Such a system is no doubt a prerequisite for ensuring the gains from trade to all countries, economically powerful or otherwise. Be that as it may, progress in the negotiations under the Doha Round has been staggering. Similarly as regards target 17.12, improvement in duty-free and quota-free market access for least developed countries was

[21] A/69/700.

[22] These areas are reflected in Goal 17 of the Open Working Group's proposal on sustainable development goals. The systemic issues are further elaborated in three areas: policy and institutional coherence, multi-stakeholder partnerships, and data, monitoring and accountability.

urged, not required, at the Bali Ministerial Conference. Moreover, conclusions of the Conference are non-binding with regard to making transparent and simple preferential rules of origin that are applicable to least developed countries.[23] There is a discrepancy in the level of ambition between the contents of the Doha Round and those that are envisaged for inclusion in the sustainable development goals.

Three trade-related targets or means of implementation under Goal 17 (currently under negotiation)

17.10: Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under WTO, including through the conclusion of negotiations under the Doha Development Agenda

17.11: Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020

17.12: Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with WTO decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access

35. Another important question with respect to a revitalized global partnership is whether the multilateral trading system helps, not undermines, efforts at the national level to achieve the sustainable development goals. This may be a major issue for discussion when determining how to facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound technologies or green technologies to achieve sustainable development.

36. The importance of promoting green technologies has been well acknowledged. Article 4.5 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC/INFORMAL/849) states:

> The developed country Parties and other developed Parties... shall take all practicable steps to promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, the transfer of, or access to, environmentally sound technologies and know-how to other Parties, particularly developing country Parties, to enable them to implement the provisions of the Convention. In this process, the developed country Parties shall support the development and enhancement of endogenous capacities and technologies of developing country Parties. Other Parties and organizations in a position to do so may also assist in facilitating the transfer of such technologies.

37. This conflicts with obligations under the WTO TRIPS Agreement. Should green technologies be considered a global public good and thus should their transfer be facilitated beyond the obligations under the Agreement? Or should WTO members ensure strict protection of intellectual property rights in such a way that monetary incentives would enhance more research and development on future green technologies? Despite the urgency of reaching a globally agreed solution, the issues surrounding intellectual property rights and access to green technologies are not featured in the current Doha Round of Negotiations.

[23] TD/B/C.I/MEM.5/5.

Issues for discussion

38. Possible questions on how to revitalize the global partnership would include the following:

(a) How can a country better coordinate at the national level its negotiation efforts in interrelated areas – for example, climate change and trade negotiations – which are the key to global sustainable and resilient development, but are often dealt with by different audiences in practice?

(b) How can real market access – tariffs, non-tariff measures and market entry conditions – be improved in such a way as to reinforce developing country Governments' actions to deliver on the post-2015 development agenda?

(c) What type of global partnership could help Governments reduce the economic loss that may arise from implementing a policy mix to achieve sustainable development? For instance, for fear of losing international competitiveness of its products and services, a Government is dissuaded from taking unilateral action to improve the working and wage conditions of marginalized groups.

(d) How can regional and multilateral agreements converge, under the aegis of the multilateral trading system, towards achieving inclusive and sustainable development?

V. Conclusion

39. In short, the issues discussed in this note are about what future government actions will be taken to deliver on the post-2015 development agenda during the period 2015-2030. This paper discusses the importance of designing and implementing an integrated policy mix in a continual and inclusive process that achieves sustainable development. It suggests that the Commission explore desirable types of regional actions and a global partnership that would support and reinforce national efforts laying a foundation to realize the future we want at the planetary level beyond 2030.

40. In the short term, it is hoped that the views and ideas exchanged during the meeting will provide useful inputs to the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, the preparatory process towards the third International Conference on Financing for Development, and the lead-up to the fourteenth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to be held in Lima in 2016.